

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SMI-01 IO-14 INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6859

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1573

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, CS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ARENAL VOLCANO ACTIVITY

1. DR. WILLIAM MELSON, CHAIRMAN OF DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL SCIENCES OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY AND REQUESTED THAT WE OBTAIN THE ANSWERS TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS FOR HIM FROM GOCR MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OFFICIAL, RODRIGO SAENZ. THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, WHICH DEAL WITH THE RECENT ACTIVITY OF THE ARENAL VOLCANO, ARE LISTED BELOW. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTACT DR. MELSON AND RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO HIM. DR. MELSON CAN BE REACHED AT THE SMITHSONIAN ON THE FOLLOWING NUMBER: 681-5179, THE IDS CODE IS (144).

2. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: (1) IS THE UPPER CRATER FROM WHICH THE NEW LAVA IS FLOWING ACCESSIBLE? MR. SAENZ HAS NOT MADE THE CLIMB BUT HIS IMPRESSION IS THAT IT WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ONE. (2) IS THERE A DANGER OF AVALANCHING IF ONE CLIMBS UP TO THIS CRATER? MR. SAENZ BELIEVES THAT THERE IS NO DANGER OF AVALANCHING. (3) HOW ARE THE CURRENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AT THE CRATER? MR. SAENZ DESCRIBES THEM AS PRETTY GOOD. (4) WOULD IT BE ADVISABLE FOR DR. MELSON TO COME TO COSTA RICA TO INVESTIGATE THIS NEW ACTIVITY? MR. SAENZ DEFERRED THIS DECISION TO DR. MELSON, SAYING ONLY TO TELL HIM THAT THE ACTIVITY IS VERY INTENSE. (5) ARE THERE ANY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND/OR MAPS, OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY SENT TO DR. MELSON, OF THE NEW VENT AND THE NEW LAVA FLOWS? MR. SAENZ SAYS UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE ARE NOT, AND THAT HE WILL SEND ANY THAT MAY BE TAKEN TO

DR. MELSON. (6) HAVE THE SAMPLES FROM THE VOLCANO BEEN
MAILED TO DR. MELSON? THE EMBASSY MAILED OUT A BOX OF
SAMPLES TO DR. MELSON YESTERDAY.

3. DR. MELSON MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN HAVING MR. SAENZ'
TELEPHONE NUMBER IN SAN JOSE. MR. SAENZ OFFICE PHONE AT THE
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY IS 26-13-98.
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